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Bacteriology
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Dear Frits:

It was good to hear from you. I was sure you would enjoy your trip, and am pleased that you did.

Our plans are still somewhat indefinite. In principle, we might be able to return as early as Nov. 4, but this would mean racing back home, non-stop. We will be in Australia at least to Nov. 2, you see.

The main question is whether Esther or I or both of us return via India and Europe. If this is the plan, we would not be back until December 1 or a day or two ~~earlier~~ before. If we return trans-Pacific, we would probably spend some days in New Zealand, and with stopovers at California and Denver, we would be back about Nov. 15. We are still discussing this. The Indian Government has invited me to stopover for some lectures in Calcutta and Bombay, and this would pay part of the additional expense. So this is a rather unique opportunity. On the other hand, there are strong pressures, personal and business -- e.g. your own-- to return earlier.

I would like to ask you to count on staying in ~~Madison~~ Madison at least to December 5, which will give us the minimal opportunity for terminal discussions. If we should return earlier, you can still use the additional time as you like. If before then you can have ready a quite complete report summarizing your findings, we can use the few days to very great advantage. I would stress the desirability of your including as much detail as possible, even of experiments that didn't work. You can see what use there is of such records from your use of Skaar's and Bernstein's-- and the more meticulous the report, the better both for yourself and your successors. (It is not too likely that we will continue with immunogenetic work on E. coli to any great extent, as you would be the best to do that, but one can hardly predict the issues that may arise in future studies.)

I do hope you will not give yourself any further mental troubles about where to stay. You must accept our hospitality, whenever it is convenient for you, and not only while we are away, but also for the time after our return. For those latter few days, this will even be of some advantage in giving us more convenient

hours together when time is short. This will be no inconvenience to us whatsoever, more particularly insofar as you have your independent means of transportation. Esther and I will be quite disappointed if you decline our suggestion, and especially if that impels your premature departure.

oOo

I have begun to be quite involved in influenza genetics, and have actually gotten to the execution of some new experiments: 1) on the nature of incomplete virus, and 2) on the selection of recombinants by means of various mucoid inhibitors. The former is not going so well at present, and my working hypothesis (that the incomplete virus is roughly analogous to protoplasts) may be quite wrong; the 2'd is giving very promising results so far, but we are still at the stage of preliminary reconstruction experiments. If they work out, they should lead to a more quantitative technique for the study of recombination in flu than has been possible so far.

If the Heumann's are still in Madison when you get this, please give them our best wishes and bon voyage. We hope we can see Wolfram again at the Stockholm meeting, if not before.

Jackie's letter has just arrived also--we will wait to hear further regarding mss. etc. before replying. Thanks to her for the account of the symposium.